

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE INITIATIVE TO REQUIRE VOTER ID

FINANCIAL IMPACT – CANNOT BE DETERMINED

OVERVIEW

The Initiative To Require Voter ID (Initiative) proposes to amend *Nevada Revised Statutes* by adding provisions that would require a registered voter who wishes to vote in person in Nevada to present his or her proof of identity, as defined in the Initiative, to the applicable election board officer. The Initiative would also require the Legislature to direct one or more government entities to issue, at no charge, a voter identification card to a person who is registered to vote in Nevada and who does not possess any other form of proof of identity that is specified within the Initiative.

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE INITIATIVE

Pursuant to Article 19, Section 2 of the *Nevada Constitution*, an initiative proposing to amend the *Nevada Revised Statutes* must be approved by the Legislature and Governor within the first 40 days of the next regular session, which begins on February 6, 2017. If the Legislature and Governor approve the Initiative, it becomes law and may be amended during the next following legislative session. If the Legislature and Governor do not approve the Initiative within the first 40 days of the session, it will be submitted to the voters at the November 2018 General Election. If it is approved by the voters at that election, the Initiative becomes law and may not be amended for a period of three years.

The provisions of the Initiative would require the Legislature and Governor to approve legislation to implement these provisions. Legislation requiring a registered voter to present his or her proof of identity prior to voting may result in additional expenditures by the state and local governments, but the amount of those additional expenditures cannot be determined until the legislation is enacted. Legislation requiring the issuance of voter identification cards at no charge would increase the expenditures of the state and local government entities required to issue the cards, but until the legislation is enacted, the Fiscal Analysis Division cannot determine which government entities would be required to issue the cards, the number of cards that would be issued by each entity, or the cost of creating and issuing each card. The Fiscal Analysis Division additionally cannot predict which sources would be utilized by the Legislature to fund the associated costs related to the issuance of the cards.

The Secretary of State's Office has additionally indicated that, as a result of federal court rulings, the provisions of the Initiative requiring a registered voter to present his or her proof of identity to vote in person would require the Secretary of State to conduct an educational campaign to inform voters of the identification requirements specified within the Initiative. The campaign could include, but would not necessarily be limited to, mailings to citizens, the production of radio and television public service announcements, purchase of airtime for the announcements, purchase of newspaper advertisements, and modifications to the Secretary of State's website. Although the educational campaign will increase expenditures for the Secretary of State's Office, it is not currently possible to determine whether the Legislature will require specific criteria to be established related to the voter education campaign, whether the Legislature will require additional voter education campaigns to be conducted by local government entities, or the cost that may be incurred by state and local government entities to conduct these campaigns.

Based on the information provided above, the Fiscal Analysis Division has determined that, although the Initiative will increase expenditures of state government and may increase expenditures of local government entities, the amount of the financial impact cannot be determined with any reasonable degree of certainty.

Prepared by the Fiscal Analysis Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau – August 4, 2016